Juvenile Monitoring Satellite Project Work Team

Meeting Notes
April 19th, 2006
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Participants: Bill Poytress (chair-FWS), Jim Earley (FWS), Erin Chappell (DWR), Duane Massa (DFG), Colleen Harvey-Arrison (DFG), Ryon Kurth (DWR), Michael Gorman (NSR Inc), Felipe Carrillo (FWS), David Colby (FWS), Maureen McGee (DWR), Karl Jacobs (DWR), John Williams, Kellie Whitton (FWS), Robert Vincik (DFG), Aric Lester (DWR), Dennis Blakeman (DFG).

I.   **Introductions and Announcements:** Welcome back Mr. Michael Gorman who is working with North State Resources Inc. Welcome newest participant Aric Lester (DWR). Thank you to all JMPWT members who contributed data to the collaborative lamprey poster project. The poster was presented at the March 2006 AFS California-Nevada Chapter meeting in San Luis Obispo.

II.   **Modify/Adopt agenda** - The agenda was modified so that Bill Poytress and Felipe Carrillo's demonstration presentation preceded THE DWR/IEP presentation which was given by Maureen McGee-Rotondo in lieu of Karl Jacobs. Tom Cannon who was on the draft agenda as a presenter was not present.

III.   **Modify/Adopt draft meeting notes from 1/18/06** - The previous meeting notes were adopted with no further changes, thanks for the input.

IV.   **Group Discussion of JMPWT Mission Statement / IEP website, Meeting Intervals, Collaborative Lamprey Poster Project, and Juvenile Monitoring project website(s).**

   B. Poytress approached the group with a mini-presentation concerning the IEP website that has information pertaining to the Central Valley Salmonid Project Work Team groups. He noted that there has been some renewed interest in updating the website as it has not been updated since 1999. He showed the IEP website, via a couple of Powerpoint slides, and the links that could be updated (Mission statement and Meeting Notes). He stated that the topic of a mission statement had been broached in 2004 and wanted to discuss with the group a mission statement he had found in old notes [with minor modifications].

   The group discussed the draft statement and overall it was decided that the draft statement would be emailed to the group to allow participants time to consider/amend/suggest edits to the current statement. The updated version of the mission statement will be discussed at the next JMPWT meeting as a specific topic/sub-topic following compilation of comments and suggested edits. Specific comments from the group discussion included the following:
   J. Williams: (add) improve methods for analyzing and presenting data
   A. Lester: (add) sampling methodology analysis
   R. Vincik: (add) dissemination of data, linkage of juvenile monitoring information

J. Earley: (add) provide data/information to management

The next group discussion topic concerned the frequency of meetings. The chair had spoken with some members who had expressed an interest in reducing the frequency of meetings (i.e. 3 meeting /year as opposed to 4). From the previous discussion topic it appeared that the frequency of meetings may want to increase if efforts want to be made to substantially update the JMPWT website. Overall the group seemed to think that keeping up the quarterly meeting schedule would likely be the best way to preserve the group's integrity (i.e. not disintegrate). Specifically, **J. Earley** noted that meetings should be kept quarterly to address current JMPWT efforts. **M. McGee** noted that the satellite group should keep in contact with the parent group to make sure focus/objectives of the group are kept within the expectations of the parent group. **B. Poytress** stated he would make further attempts to contact the parent group to follow up on that idea.

The next discussion topic focused on **B. Poytress**' email request that monitoring programs bring/submit websites of their project homepages and e-reports (if available). **B. Poytress** passed out a draft list of Internet URL's titled "Fish Links" that he said he would like to get juvenile monitoring projects to add information to. **B. Poytress** continued noting that Alice Low (DFG) was interested in getting links for juvenile monitoring information as she was attempting to do the same for adult information. Overall it appears that most juvenile monitoring group members have little to no Internet websites containing information relating to their projects or results (i.e. reports). **M. McGee** noted that many offices do not have much in the way of IT resources. **D. Blakeman** stating he was in the process of creating a webpage for his office/project on his own. **A. Lester** noted that the BDAT site may be a good platform to upload monitoring reports. Further discussion included the idea of creating a JMPWT website that has information of the monitoring projects with downloadable reports. **B. Poytress** plans to look into it [**K. Jacobs** in subsequent discussion noted it could likely be worked out] and begin working on the details.

V. Discussion Topic: Data Dissemination

1) **Bill Poytress/Felipe Carrillo (FWS):** *Real Time Summarized Data Dissemination Demonstration (Software Integration and Automation).*

B. Poytress began the demonstration presentation by giving an overview of the goals and objectives of providing bi-weekly real time daily passages estimates. He noted that the goal is to provide "real time" standardized, summarized daily passages estimates to provide input to fishery managers and water operations managers to assist in the decision making process (DAT-WOMT). The specific objectives are to provide daily passage estimates of the four runs of Chinook (according to length-at-date criteria) and steelhead (*O.mykiss*) including fork length information and environmental data (peak daily flows, mean temps and turbidity). These data are put into a table and graphed (including previous years data for comparison), emailed every other week and uploaded to the BDAT website. **F. Carrillo** then began to demonstrate the process used to accomplish this task. Mr. Carrillo noted, using a flow diagram, that this process is based on an Excel platform using Visual Basic Code to import data form the Internet (flow data), export and import various data from

Excel to Access and vice versa, graphed via Sigmaplot and ultimately exported and displayed as a MS Word report. MS Word was chosen as it was the most easily accessible format for the end user to display (i.e. most everyone can open MS word documents). **F. Carrillo** demonstrated in detail the many Visual Basic macros that are used to accomplish the task of summarizing and reporting these data. The details of this process are lengthy and will not be described here (i.e. contact Felipe Carrillo for details). Overall the process incorporates many areas to make checks on the data prior to dissemination and the process as a whole is a "work in progress". Continued automation and integration are on-going to further simplify the process.

[Notes of discussion during demonstration were not taken in detail as the chair (note taker) was involved throughout the demonstration]

2) Maureen McGee-Rotondo (DWR): *Bay/Delta & Tributaries Database Project*

M. McGee presented information on the BDAT database project, describing a distributed data management system, and example of a local data management system, (the "SWAMP" system), enterprise applications, current and future BDAT activities. **M. McGee** noted that BDAT is a multi-agency sponsored and participant project (California State and Federal agencies).

In terms of background information, **M. McGee** stated that the BDAT system 1) requires coordination/cooperation between agencies and stakeholders, 2) is a product of monitoring programs, and 3) requires implementation of known technology. As for what an enterprise data system does, it provides access to a multitude of monitoring program data and provides a system to distribute GIS and model output. The data within the system can be used for models, project operations, adaptive management, and analysis of mitigation devices such as fish screens or barriers. The system itself includes a local database component that manages and controls data and a system whereby local data are then loaded/synchronized into the comprehensive database. **M. McGee** then described an example the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) noting that 9 Regional Water Quality Control Boards are using the system which has a net cost saving result (i.e. replicated databases). As for the responsibilities of a local database manager, **M. McGee** stated that the databases can be customized to meet needs; training, data entry, QA/QC and data output [summarization] needs to done locally. **M. McGee** also noted that technical assistance via DWR staff is available as it benefits the data provider and comprehensive database project. Databases do require local management and maintenance.

M. McGee then continued her presentation describing the complex cooperative data management system describing the various nodes that comprise the enterprise system, various aspects of relational databases, and other applications (e.g. Web Interface, V-plotter, CALFED, Datamon, GR, Spring run data etc…). Maureen presented an example of the Spring Run report(s) that can be queried from the IEP website and others. She then described what data is currently loaded on the system: CVPIA/CAMP Fisheries and Water Quality data from DFG Region 4, SP Cramer and associates, EBMUD, DWR, USFWS-Red Bluff, GCID etc. **M. McGee** also discussed project standards and the future of the project.

She concluded by stating that the BDAT system is a comprehensive source of biological, water quality, and hydrodynamics information in California. The project is now moving these data into the EPA Exchange Network and adding new data sources for the National data sharing effort.

Discussion pertaining to the presentation included:
J. Earley expressed concerns about people using raw data found on the Internet incorrectly. **K. Jacobs** responded that it does happen occasionally, but adding a metadata file including information on what the data should and should not be used for can reduce the occurrence of this type of situation. **A. Lester** asked about GIS and/or the ability to obtain data by region or using some type of site map. **K. Jacobs** responded that in many cases x, y coordinates of the sample sites are available, but there has not been enough funds to integrate maps as much as would be desired (i.e. lower on the priority list as it relates to limited funds). The topic of standardization of units etc was mentioned and **J. Williams** noted it is easier to standardize in U.S. compared to Europe as the U.S. has a common language. **B. Poytress** asked about the potential to use the IEP site for posting reports to which **K. Jacobs** indicated that was one of the original intents of the site, it just takes someone to work with IEP staff to set it up and maintain it. **A. Lester** commented that various program managers should make public the purpose of their data collection efforts and the limitations of their data and discuss what it should/should not be used for (John, Colleen, and Jim also made related comments). **J. Williams** commented on graphing the data appropriately.

VI. **Next Meeting Information: Tentative Date set as Wednesday August 16, 2006.**
Location to be determined and date to be confirmed as it approaches. Discussion topic to be focused on *abundance estimates and confidence interval* procedures. The chair will attempt to make contact with Erik Bjornstedt (NMFS) and perhaps Dave Hankin (HSU) and others to work with the group on appropriate procedures for estimating relative abundance using rotary traps etc…Please feel free to contact Bill Poytress if you have any input to provide for this topic.